

CHAPTER 1
SECTION 30

REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN PRIME TRAVEL EXPENSES

ISSUE DATE: December 21, 2001

AUTHORITY: [32 CFR 199.17\(p\)\(4\)\(vi\)](#)

I. POLICY

TRICARE Prime enrollees referred for necessary specialty care over 100 miles from their Primary Care Manager's (PCM's) office to the nearest specialist's office may be eligible to receive reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses. Entitlement is limited to those specialty referrals when no other specialist (i.e., Military Treatment Facility (MTF), network or non-network specialists) is available within 100 miles of the PCM's office. The only exception is when the beneficiary agrees to a referral to a center of excellence or Military Treatment Facility with the patient's approval. Travel orders and reimbursement are also authorized for one non-medical attendant to accompany a non-active duty TRICARE Prime patient referred for medically necessary specialty care more than 100 miles from the patient's primary care manager location.

MTFs will be responsible for validation of travel expense entitlement and issuing travel orders for specialty referrals issued by military PCMs, while the Regional Directors or designated government representatives will assume responsibility for travel entitlement determinations and orders for specialty referrals from civilian PCMs. Travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR). The Managed Care Support Contractors will refer civilian travel requests for MTF-enrolled beneficiaries to the MTFs and civilian-enrolled requests to the Regional Director or designated Government representative for validation, orders and payment if it appears that the beneficiary may be entitled to the new travel benefit. Beneficiaries with questions about the Prime travel benefit and the non-medical attendant entitlement should contact their local Military Treatment Facility or Regional Director travel representative on beneficiary counseling and assistance coordination (BCAC) for assistance. Telephone numbers and addresses for BCAC are available on the TRICARE website at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>.

II. EFFECTIVE DATE October 30, 2000.

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